MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURT ANNUAL SESSION,

OF THE

NORTH-RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

ZION MEETIN-HOUSE,

MARION COUNTY, ALA.

FROM THE 15th TO 18th OF OCTOBER,

1858.

R. Allen Smith, Printer, Fayette C. H., Ala.

Minutes of the North River Baptist Association.

	Churches.	Pastors.	Postoffce.	Baptised.	Rec., by L.,	Restored,	Dismissed,	Excluded,	Died,	Total,	Minute Fund,	Associational Fund,
1st. District.	Bethlehem,	L. B. Harbin,	Newlexington,	2		2		3		52	129	160
	Shepherd,	J. Rushing,	Newtonville,	10	3	1	13			56	160	100
	Pilgrims Rest,	P. Landford,	Pilgrims Rest,	5	2	1	13	1		50	190	50
	Fayetteville,	M. M. Blalock,	Fayette C. H.,	4	30			1		52	200	200
	Hepsebeth,	L. B. Harbin,	Handy,	2	1	1	4	1		32	130	50
	New Bethel,			3	3					24	100	50
	Mt. Pleasant,	E. Dodson,	Davis Creek,	5						59	135	100
	Clear Springs,	L. B. Harbin,	Sheffield,		2		1			15	50	150
	Mt. Joy,		Sheffield,				3			13	125	
2nd. District.	Providence,	L. B. Harbin,	York,	1	4		5	4	1	57	250	
	Union,	J. J. Watts,	Larissa,	10	3	1	3	1		20	100	
	Pleasant Grove,	J. J. Watts,	Jasper,	15	7	1	5		2	68	200	65
	Ebenezer,	R. Adkins,	Jasper,			1	1	4		35	100	65
	Jasper,		Jasper,		1					11	100	50
	Liberty Grove,	J. J. Watts,	Jasper,	9	9					29	100	60
	Lebanon,	R. M. Adkins,	York,	21	11	1	1			53	150	200
	Newprospect,	S: A. Smith,	Blackwater,	2	8	2	2		1	20	100	60

3rd. District.	Campspring,	A. Markham,	Hill,	11	6		11	3		50	200	
	Friendship,	S. P. Rowland,	Big Pond,		3	1	3	1		36	140	
	Bethel,	R. Adkins,	Splunge, Miss.	9						43	50	50
	Mt. Zion,	P. Landford,	Big Pond,	10	6		4	3	1	90	180	
	Antioe,	E. Chaffin,	Moscow,	6	8	3	2			33	100	50
4th. District.	Bethabara,	S. P. Rowland,	Hill,	1	13		1			38	300	
	Macedonia,	S. P. Rowland,	Mud Creek,									
	Corrinth,	A. Markham,	Big Pond,		7	1	7	2		31	150	
	Shiloah,	P. Landford,	Moscow,	16	9					87	200	
	Mt. Lebanon,	E. Dodson,	Hesters,		3		5			37	100	
	Bethesda,	C. T. Willborn,	Hill,	4	1					15	50	50
	Zion,	A. Markham,	Astons Store,		11		7			85	300	
	Pleasant Hill,	E. Chaffin,	Allen's Factory,	1			2	3		34	155	
	Enon,											
	Shady Grove,	Thos. Rideout,	Pikeville,	13	7	1		3		60	100	50
	Holly Springs,	R. Adkins,	Barnsville,		1			3		41	100	
	Hopewell,		Eldridge,				5	1		41	150	
	Liberty,											
	Hackleburg,	A. L. Dugan,	Hackleburg,	1	2		6			34	150	50
	Good Springs.									8	150	

RECAPITULATION.—Baptised 161, Received by letter 158, Restored 17, Dismissed by letter 104, Excluded 31, Died 5, Total nnmber of membership 1372.—Sent up for Minutes $64,70—. The Macedonia, Enon and Liberty Churches; numbers not known. N. B. Ordained Ministers not Delegated, (viz.) J. H. Span, G. W. Little, S. Winter, and R. Walden.

LICENTIATES.—Wm. Farquhar, Milton Keenum, Wm. C. Patterson and E. Nix.

MINUTES.

Friday October, 15th 1858

1st. The Delegates to the 24th annual session, of the North-River united Baptist Association, met at the Stand, with Zion Church, Marion county, Ala. The Introductory sermon was preached by L. B. Harbin, from St. John, the 18th chap. and 36th v: "My kingdom is not of this world &c."

2d. After an interval of one hour for dinner, the delegates assembled in Zion Meeting house, and were called to order, and prayer offered by the former moderator: L. B. Harbin.

3rd. Read letters from the following Churches, and enrolled the names of their delegates: (Absentees marked thus,*–Ordained ministers in small caps.)

Bethlehm, Tuscaloosa, Ala.,—A. FILES, L. Lee, W. J. Hutto.
Shepherd, Fayette "—Thomas Cates, B. A. McCool.
Pilgram's Rest " "—H. Yerby, E. D. Rushing, G. B. Collins*
Fayetteville " "—M. Vandiver, J. Middleton, A. F. Bell.
Hepsebeth, " "—L. B. HARBIN, S. Baker, P. M. Newton.
Clear-Spring, " "—S. P. Henderson, J. H. Brazier* J. E. Heirs*
Mountjoy, " "—J. Penly* B. M. Kimbell, W. A. Edmonds*
Providence, Walker, "—S. H. Karr* W. Randolph, L. Williams.
Plesant-Grove, " "—D. Manasco, S. A. SMITH, J. Gutery,
Ebenezer, " "—R. Files, J. Garner* Charles Hutto.
Jasper, " "—T. M. GABBERT* D. M. Compton* T. L. Reed.
Liberty-Grove, " "—J. J. WATTS* R. A. Jones, E. Sumner.
Lebanon, Fayette, "—Wm. Cobb, Wm. Gains* R. W. Smith.
Emmaus, Marion, "—Dissolved.
Camp-Spring, Fayette, "—A. Bobo, M. Rainwater, S. M. Rainwater.
Friendship, " "—J. Brock* D. Loftis* P. Gillam.
Bethel, Monroe, Miss.—Joshua Box* J. Ray* J. S. Black.
Mount-Zion, Fayette, Ala.—P. LANDFORD, P. McGee* J. J. Wheeler.
Antioc, Mation, "—E. CHAFFIN, R. D. Casey* C. C. Chaffin.
Bethabara, Fayette, "—S. P. ROLAND* A. Godfrey, J. H. Shackleford
Mascedonia, " "—Not represented.
Corrinth, " "—J. E. Graves, E. W. Lawrence* J. T. Collins*
Shiloah, " "—I. WATSON* T. W. Woods, Wm. P. Posey.
Zion, Marion, "—A. MARKHAM, R. ADKINS, W. S. McNatt.
Pleasant-Hill, " "—E. R. LITTLE, W. C. Patterson* W. C. Blackell.
New-Prospect, Winston, "—Dismissed by letter.
Enon, Marion, "—Not represented.
Shady-Grove, " "—T. RIDEOUT* D. C. Morrow, J. Litleton*
Holly-Springs, " "—J. M. Neal, A. Huah* A. D. Harris*
Hopewell, " "—T. Tucker, T. Harper, J. R. Tucker*
Union, Winston, "—S. TYLER, D. C. Manaseo, N. V. Reaves.
Liberty, Franklin, "—Not represented.
Hackleburg, Marion, "—A. L. DUGAN, J. Taylor, E. Nix.
New Bethel, Fayette, "—J. L. Cobb* G. W. Kinkennon* J. M. Cuthberson
Mount-Pleasnt, " "—D. G. Kirkland, W. R. Maddox* N. P. Danly.
Mount-Lebanon, " "—E. DODSON, J. W. Collins, J. Watson.
New Prospect, Walker, "—M. Orear, E. Right* Wm. Mills.

Good-Springs, Marion, "—M. E. Chambles, E. W. Chambles, W. Y McBride
Bethesda, Fayette, "—C. T. WILLBORN, W. F. Prater* W. B. Holland.

4th. A door was opened for the reception of newly constituted or dismissed churches, when petitionary letters were received and read, from New Bethel, Mount-Pleasant, Mount-Lebanon, and Bethesda, churches Fayette county, Ala.; from New Prospect church, Walker county, and from Good-Springs church, Marion county, Ala.; which petitions prayed admission into our union. They were all cordially received, by the Moderator giving the right-hand of fellowship, and invit ng their delegates to take seats with us, and their names were then enrolled in the above list.

5th. Elected L. B. Harbin, Moderator, and Miles Rainwater, Clerk.

6th. The following committees were then appointed: 1st, to arrange the Business—James Middleton, T. W. Woods, E. Dodson, & the Moderator and Clerk. 2d, on Documents—A. F. Bell, A. Files, M. Vandiver, S. P. Rowland, and D. G. Kirkland. 3rd, on Finance—Wm. Randolph, P. M. Newton, and W. S. McNatt. 4th, to arrange Preaching—Lewis Lee, M. Orear, Peter Gillam, and the Deacons of Zion church.

7th. Called for correspondence, which was received as follows: From Big Bear Creek Association, a letter and a package of minutes, by her messengers, to wit: Elders Wm. Mathews, and C. Deavors, and bro. W. Brown. And from the Tuscaloosa Association, a letter and package of minutes, and also, a package of minutes of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, all of which were haertily received, and the Moderator gave the hand fellowship to the messengers, and invited them to seats, and to participate.

8th. Visiting ministers were invited to seats, and to participate.

9th. Adjourned to half after 8 o'clock to-morrow a. m., prayer by Elder C. Deavors.

Saturday, October, 16th 1858.

10th. Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by A. L. Dugan.

11th. Called for the report of the committee on Arrangement, which was received, and the committee discharged.

12th. Called the names of the delegates.

13th. Read the constitution, rules of decorum and declaration of faith.

14th. Again called for correspondence, there was none presented.

15th. Returned correspondence as follows: To the Tuscaloosa Association—Elbers E. Dodson, and L. B. Harbin, and brethren, L. Lee, and N. R. Danly, Dodson, to write. To the Canaan Association—T. *L.* Reed, R. A. Jones, *L.* Williams, and Elders *L.* B. Harbin, and A. Markham, Reed, to write. To the Big Bear Creek Association—Elders A. L. Dugan, R. Adkins, E. Chaffin, and brethren D. C. Morrow and P. M. Newton, Adkins to write. To the Columbs Association—brethren T. W. Woods, H. T. Hill, W. *L.* Posey and Elders C. T. Willborn and P. *L*andford, Woods to write.

16th. Upon motion, it was agreed to have our constitution, rules of decorum, and declaration of faith, appended to these minutes.

17th. Received the report of the committee on documents, as follows:

"We your committee on documents, beg leave to report the following: We find a query in the letter from Antioc church, asking, "Is it right to receive a member of the Campbellite church, into a Baptist church without re-baptism," to which we advise the association, to answer—No. The 2d item

claiming the attention of your committee, is the difficulty reported by the Zion church, to which we respond, after carefully examining all the circumstances reported by the church, that she has fully sustained herself, according to gospel direction and Baptist usage, and we would respectfully advise the minority, to acquiese in the decission of the church. 3rd item is the difficulty or aggrievance of the Mount Zion church, as sent up by her letter, in reference to the action of Corrinth church, in the case of Samuel Winter. We think the association should appoint a committee of 7 members, to visit those churches, in order to settle said difficulty, and to report at the next session; and that the committee be required to enter as soon as practicable, on the discharge of their duty, as it seems, that the cause of Christ is liable to suffer by delay in the matter. 4th item. We think that the association should pass a resolution, requiring newly constituted churches, when applying for admission into our body, to set forth in their petitions, the declaration of Faith, which they have adopted. 5th item. We find a communication from Elder Richard Walden, which we think, claims the attention of the association; all of which we respectfully submit.

A. F. Bell, Chairman.

18th. Agreed to take up, and act on each item in the above separately.—1st. The association took up the first item, in regard to the query, "Is it proper and right ta receive a member of a Campbellite church, into one of our churches without baptism." The association acquiesced in the advice of the committee, and unaimously and emphatically answered "no." 2d. Took up the item in regard to the difficulty of the Zion church, wherein the association again adopted the position taken by the committee, and advised the minority in said church, to acquiesce in, and submit to the action of the church. 3rd. Took up the item in regard to the grievance of Mount-Zion church, the advice of the committee was again adopted by the association, and the following brethren were appointed to constitute said committee, viz: A. F. Bell, M. Vandiver, P. M. Newton, *L.* B. Harbin, Jas. Middleton, R. Files, and *E.* Dodson, committee to report to the association at next session. The association hereby appoint Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in November, next, for the meeting of said committee; and that said meeting be held at Friendship church, and the churches interested are hereby advised to meet said committee, prepared to make a complete settlement of the case. 4th. Took up the item in regard to requesting new churches to show in their petitionary letters what abstract of faith the church dopted; and upon due consideration, the advice af the committee was adepted, to wit: "That newly constituted chuches, be requested to state in their petitonary letters, what abstract of faith they adopted when constituted."

19th. Received appointments of District meetings: 1st district—the meeting to be held with the Fayetteville church, beginning on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in July 1859. A. Markham, to preach the intoductory sermon, *L.* B. Harbin, alternate; and B. B. Smith, to preach on Sabbath in defence of missions, J. J. Watts, alternate. Also, appointed the next session of the North River association, to be held with the Bethlehem church. six miles East of New Lexington. 2d district meeting, to be held with Liberty-Grove church, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July 1859. B. B. Smith, to preach the introductory sermon, *L.* B. Har-

bin, alternate, *L.* B. Harbin, to preach on Sabbath in defence of missions R. Adkins, alternate. 3rd district meeting, to be held with the Bethabara church, beginning on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in August 1859; S. P. Rowland to preach the introductory sermon, John Draper, alternat ; S. P. Rowland to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath, upon the duty of churches to their Pastors, P. *L*andford to preach at 2 o'clock on Sabbath, on the duty of pastors to the churces. 4th district meeting to be held with Zion church, commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in August 1859; *L.* B. Harbin, to preach the introductory sermom, J. H. Spann, alternate. J. J. Watts, to preach on Sabbath at 11 o'clock, in defence of missions, A. Markham alternate.

20th. The next session of the North River association, will be held, according to appointment of the 1st district meeting, with the Bethlehem church Tuscaloosa county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in Oct., 1859; and upon motion, Elder B. B. Smith, was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, J. J. Watts, alternate; and *L.* B. Harbin, to preach on Sabbath at 11 o'clock on the subject of missions, J. J. Watts, alternate.

21st. Received and adopted the report of our Treasurer as follows:

OCTOBER THE 16th 1858.

The Treasurer of the North River Association, Dr. To balance for domestic mission, as per minutes of last session (see report Executive board, $16,70.
To collection on Sabbath 32,40.
Total fund for domestic mission, $49,10.
Cr, by amount paid to *L.* B. Harbin, for mis'ary labors 29th Dec. 1857, 25,00.

*L*eaving a balance of missionrry fund in my hands of $24,10.
Received of Fayetteville church, for the use of D. W. Andrews, 5,00.
for the liquedation of his claim against our association, which claim amounted to eighty-five dollars.

And of Wm. A. Edmonds, per Mt. Joy,	$5,00	
And of Camp Spring Church,	5,00	
And of R. Files,	3,00	
And of A. Files,	2,50	
And of Hepsebeth Church,	5,00	
And of Pilgrims Rest Church,	5,00	
And of James F. McDuff,	1,00	
And of S. H. Karr,	3,00	Total, $34,50

To this sum the ballance of missionary fund is added as above, $24,10
Which makes in the aggregate, 58,60
Cr. Paid as directed by D. W. Andrews, and,
the assoeiation at last session, $58,60
To A. Markham, 58,60
Which consumes all the domestic mission in my hands up to Oct. 16 1858.
Dr. to amount received of financial committee, for printing Minutes and associational purposes, $51,05
To ballance of old Minute fund, 1,85
Total for Minutes, and association, 52,90
Cr. For printing Minutes and Clerks fee, $35,00
Paid R. Adkins, 5,00 $52,90

Total sum expended.	40,00	40,00
Dr. To Minute fund in Treasury,		$12,90
Indian mission fund,		2,60
Total amount in Treasury,		15,50

MILES RAINWATER, *Treasurer.*

22nd. Adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by the Moderator.

EVENING SESSION.

23rd, Met pursuant to adjournment, Prayer by Elder Wm. Mathews.

24th. Appointed Miles Rainwater, Treasurer of the Association for the next year.

25th. The committee on finance reported, for printing Minutes and associational purposes $68,85 cents which was paid over to the Treasurer, and the committee discharged. N. B. After the above report was made and adopted, it was ascertained by the association, that $4,15 cents of the above sum was for domestic mission, which applied to that use, and the Minute fund reduced to $64,70.

26th. Called for the report of the committee, which was appointed at last session, to visit Ebenezer and Jasper Churches, and to enquire into the standing of said Churches, when the following report of said committee. was received and adopted.

27. We your committee appointed at last session to visit Ebenezer, and Jasper Churches, beg leave to make the following report: On the 28th of November 1857, six of us met with the Ebenezer Church, and after preaching by Elder J. J. Watts. The chruch sat in conference for the first time in two years; and upon enquiring for the cause of this state of things, we learned that it was owing to hard, or unkind feelings, which existed between the church and her pastor (viz.) J. A. Jones, which originated from rumors of immoral conduct of brother J. A. Jones. Brother Jones being present, defied the church to make the proof of the rumors the church howe^{ve}r, in view of all the circumstances, refused to enter a charge against him; but at the request of brother J. A. Jones, the church agreed to suspend his membership, until he could place himself in her full fellowship, we left the church, or, a majority of it, we think with a desire to do right, and promote the cause of God, in those parts of the earth. Secondly; on the 31st of November 1857, we visited Jasper church, and organized for business, we then proceeded to enquire into the cause of their failing to represent themselves, in the association, whereupon brother T. M. Gabbart, seemed to question the right of the association, to send her committee on such business, but after some expostulation, he proceeded to state that a few of the members of their church met, and entered on their records a resolution disolving the church, and authorizing the

Clerk, to write letters of dismission for all the members composing the church. We labored to convince them that such a course was irregular, and contrary to the Baptist usage, and that they ought to call in a presbytery and disolve legally, or call a pastor and keep house for God. They seemed to decline pursuing either course, and brother Gabbart said that he would be at the next session of the Association,—all of which is respect fully submitted.

A. F. BELL, Secretary. L. B. HARBIN, Chairman.

28th. Received and adopted the report of our Book agents, as follows.—We your committee to take charge of your Book funds, raised at last session, report as follows. We invested 18 dollars in Books, and sold by Brother L. B. Harbin, A. Bobo, and S. P. Rowland, and increased by the profit thereon, to the sum of 21,90 which is in the hands of your committee. The above is respectfully submitted, A. F. Bell, Chairman.

29th. A. F. Bell, James Middleton, Levi Lindsey, were appointed our book agents for the next year.

30th. The association made up 15,70 which was added to her book fund, and paid over into the hands of our book agents which makes in the aggregate 37,60.

31st. On motion, agreed to take up miscelaneous business.

32d. Appointed a committee on Sabbath-schools, consisting of three viz: James Middleton, A. F. Bell, and S. P. Rowland, to report on Monday.

33rd. Adjourned until 8 o'clock, Monday morning—prayer by Elder S. Taylor.

Sabbath, Oct., 17th, 1858.

34th. The stand was occupied at 9 o'clock a. m., by G. T. Towerry, quite a young man, but, an interesting preacher. Text, Romans 6th chap., 22v. This hour's service was concluded by A. Markham. At 11 o'clock Elder Wm. Mathews, preached a sermon in vindication of the cause of missions; text, Math., 28th chap., 19th & 20th vs.—"Go ye therefore and teach all nation, &c. At the close of this hour's service, there was taken up $15,25 for the support of domestic missions. At 5 o'clock, D. W. Andrews preached, the congregation was large, and very attentive, and we hope great good will be the result of this day's labor.

Monday, Oct., 18th, 1858.

35th. Association met according to adjournment, prayer by the moderator.

36th. Received the report of the Executive Board, with our missionary's reports annexed, which was adopted, as follows. "Your Executive board begs leave to report, that oweing to inclemency of weather, we didnot meet at our first appintment in December last; your missionary however, made his report the board separately, and your treasurer paid him for his services. Secondly—At our meeting in June 1858, we appointed Elder J. . Watts, principal, and L. B. Harbin, alternate, as our Itenerant for three months. After conferiug with Watts, we leaned that it was impacticable, for him to serve, and brother L. B. Harbin took the field, as your missionary, about the 15th of July thus ending his labors the 15th of Oct., 1858. Your board agreed to pay him $25 per month, which makes in the aggregate $75.—The amounts sent up by collecting agents and other sources are as follows:

From Hepsebeth, church, $3,00, Bethlehem $2,00,		$5,00
Lebanon, $11,80, Shepherd $2,50, Pleasant Grove $2,75,		18,05
J. R. Binion $1,00, Mount Zion $5,30, A. Bobo $1,00,		7,30
P. Gillum 50 cts, collection on Sabbath $15,25, Fayetteville $16,50,		32,25
Shiloah $3,65, J. J. Watts 50 cts., made up by the association $8,25,		12,40
Which makes the sum of		$75,00

The above sum of 75 dollars we paid to L. B. Harbin, Oct the 18th 1858, which is in full for his services as your missionary. The above, humbly submitted, A. F. Bell, Chairman.

Reports of your missionary, to wit: *L.* B. Harbin. *Dear Brethren.*—I commenced my first term of missioary labors, for the last associational year the 24th of October 1857—rode 40 days, traveled 362 miles, preached 2 sermons, delivered 11 exhortations, witnessed 14 convertions, constituted 1 church, ordained 1 minister, 3 deacons, and baptised 7 persons. My second term commenced the 16th of July 1858, and ended October the 15th; during which time, I traveled 827 miles, preached 78 sermons, delivered 58 exhortations, witnessed 90 professions of faith, baptised 28 persons, ordained 3 deacons, and constituted 2 churches, all of which is humbly submitted, *L.* B. Harbin.

37th. Appointed a new executive board, consisting of 7 brothers, viz: A. F. Bell, Jas. Middleton, M. Rainwater, D. G. Kirkland, *L.* Lindsey, A. Bobo, and M. Vandiver.

38th. Received the report of the new Executive board, which was adopted as follows: Your executive board held a meeting to-day, and appointed A. F. Bell, Treasurer of the board, also, we appointed Saturday, before the 3rd Sabbath in January next, for the first meeting of the board: and their second meeting to be held 3 months thereafter, at Fayetteville, and we hereby suggest, that collecting agents be appointed, to raise funds and transmit to Treasurer, as soon as possible, upon which your board may operate the present year. Respetfully submitted, A. F. Bell, Chairman.

39th. Letters of correspondence to sister Associations, were read, approved, and signed.

40th. The committee on Sabbath-Schools reported, which was adopted as follows: We your committee on Sabbath-Schools, beg leave to report, that we deem it a matter of serious regret, that so little attention is paid to Sabbath-schools, in most of the churches, for it must be confessed, that it has proved a valuable auxillary in the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, wherever it has received proper attention. We are apprised too, that the scattered condition of the members of the churches, in many instances, renders it in some degree difficult to sustain a Sunday school, yet, we think that the happy result attending them will amply compensate for all the labor, and self-denial necessary, to their establishment and perpetuation, in the vicinity of most of our churches; we therefore, suggest, that the Pastors of churches be requested, to pay special attention to the subject, and endeavor to havs a Sunday-school established in every neighborhood, in their respective fields of lobor, in which it is at all practicable. Respectfully &c., James Middleton, Chairman.

41st. Collecting agents were appointed as suggested by our Board, viz: Bethlehem church, W. P. Earnest; Shepherd, S. E. Bell; Pilgram's Rest, E. D. Rushing; Fayetteville, Moses Walters; Hepsebeth, P. M. Newton; Clear Springs, S. P. Henderson; Mt. Joy, W. A Edmonds; Providence, T. Randolph; Pleasant Grove, J. Gutery; Ebenezer, R. Files; Jasper, T. A. Reed; Liberty Grove, *R. A.* Jones; Lebanon, B. B. Smith; Camp-Spring, S. M. Rainwater; Friendship, *R.* Loftis; Bethel, J. H. *Ray*; Mt. Zion, J. J. Wheeler; Antioc, N. Otts; Bethabara, J. H. Shackleford; Macedonia, J. McGee; Corrinth, J. T. Collins; Shiloah, T. W. Woods; Zion, W. S. McNatt; Peasant Hill, B. Mancil; Enon, J. Watson; Shady Grove, W. H. Johnson; Holly Springs, A. Gogins; Hopewell, T. Harper; Union, N. V.

Reaves, Liberty, B. Steel ; Hackleburg, J. Keplinger; Mt. Pleasant, N. *R.* Danly; Mt. Lebrnon, J. *W*atson; New Bethel, G. T. Harton ; Bethesda, *W*. Holland. New Prospect, M. Orear; Good Springs, D. *W*. Chambliss.

42d. *R*esolved that we recommed the several churches composing this association, that hereafter, when they wish to set forward a young gift, to the ministry, that they call a presbytery of ministers, to examine him and to license him.

43rd. *R*esolved that we have one thousand copies of our minutes printed and that the Clerk superintend the printing, and that he reserve one hundred copies for correspondence, and that he accept $15,00 for his services; and furthermore, that we appoint one distributing agent in each district.

44th. Distributing agents were appointed: 1st dist., L. B. Harbin; 2d dist., S. *A*. Smith; 3rd dist., P. Landford; 4th dist., *A*. L. Dugan.

45th. Called the names of the delegates, and marked absentees.

46th. *R*ead and corrected the minute of the present session.

47th. *R*esolved that we tender our thanks to the Zion church, and vicinity, for their kind hospatality to us during the present cession.

48th. A hymn was sung and prayer offered by Elder *A*. Files. The delegates enterchanged the right- hand of fellowship and the association adjourned. M. *R*AINWATER, Clerk. L. B. HARBIN, Moderator.

Constitution.

We, the United Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ, are desirous of a reciprocal union. We therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of the Association, according to the following:

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other, and that the congregational form of church government should be inviolably preserved; yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious counsels, on the principles of reciprocal advantage and christian love: we hold it to be the duty of the Churches to pay respect on these principles; to the advice of the Association.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union; who on producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats. The letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively, viz: the number in fellowship, the number received by baptism, by letters, by restoration, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead, since the last Association; which letters shall be read, and delegate's name enrolled.

2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the North River United Baptist Association.

3. We declare ourselves a Missionary body on the following plan. The Association may appoint an executive committee, whose duty it shall be to employ a Missionary or Missionaries to travel and preach the gospel to the destitute in her bounds; and to enlarge their field of labour if necessary; and furthermore, it shall be the duty of said committee to appoint a Treasurer to take charge of all the moneys paid over by the several churches for the support of the mission; also said treasurer shall make a correct report to each and every annual session of this body of all monies received, ex-

penditures, and the surplus on hand, if any; which report shall be affixed to the minutes of the Association.

4. The Association thus formed shall choose by ballot a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

5. This body shall have no coercive power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal priviliges or rights of the Churches in our Union, but shall only be considered an advisory council in all matters respecting their internal concerns.

6. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union should be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches, which they may look upon to be unsound in principle, or immoral in practice, until they be reclaimed.

7. To take up no case of any Church in the union, without the consent of a majority of the Church.

8. Newly constituted or dismissed Churches may be received into our Union, by their representatives, chosen as before stated; and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving them the right hand of fellowship.

9. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day, until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

10. Every Church shall be entitled to a representation of three members.

11. To have the Minutes of the Association read, and altered, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises, and have them printed if she thinks proper.

12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members.

13. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

14. To amend the plan or form of government at any time, when a majority of the union shall deem it necessary.

Rules Of Decorum.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. But one person shall speak at a time, and shall rise and address the Moderator.

3. No member shall be interupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject in question, or uses words of personal reflection.

4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association except withdrawn by him who made it.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall first be decided, or withdrawn before another is offered.

6. When any question is taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, or otherwise. The decsion thus made shall be announced by the Modeator immediately.

7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the Moderator.

8. No person shall speak more than twice upon the same subject, without leave obtained.

9. The appelation of brother shall be used in our addresses one to another.

10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same priviledge as anyother member, provided he appoints some other member to fill his seat while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11. Any member violating the above rules, may be reproved, as the Association may think proper, only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

Baptist Declaration of Faith.

1. *On the Scriptures.*—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth without any mixure of error for its matter; that it reveales the principes by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian Union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions. should be tried.

2. *Of the true God.*—That there is one true and living God, whose name isJ ehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressiably glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work redemption.

3. *Of the Fall of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice; being by nature utterly void af that holiness, required by the law of God, wholy given to gratification of the world of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defence or excuse.

4. *Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death, being arisen from the dead, he is enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all sufficient Saviour.

5. *Of Justification.*—That the great Gospel Blessing, which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness, that it is not bestowed in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redmption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. *Of the Freeness of Salvation.*—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them

by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will submit him to an aggivated condemntion

7. *Of Grace in Regeneratoin.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated and born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is affected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit; so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. *Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistant with the moral agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God; and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. *Of the Perserverance of the Saints.*—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from surperficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. *Harmony of the Law and Gospel.*—That the law of God is the eternal und unchangable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church

11. *Of a Gospel Church.*—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws and exercising the gifts, rights and priviliges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12. *Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, of our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior; that it is pre requisit to the priviliges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self examination.

13. *Of the Christian Sabbath.*—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation, by the devout

bservance of all the means of grace both private and public; and by pr paration for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14. *Of Civil Government.*—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience. and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

15. *Of the Righteous and Wicked.*—That there is a radical and asential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanceified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

16. *Of the World to Come.*—That the end of this world is approaching, and that at the last day, Christ will decend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and righteous to endless joy; and that this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Received of Miles Rainwater, twenty-five dollars, for printing 1000 copies of this Minute.

R. ALLEN SMITH.